

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SR-02 ORM-01 /074 W

----- 028214

R 051822Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0851

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 06783

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SI, IN, UK

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR US ASSISTANCE TO CHOGYAL OF SIKKIM

1. LETTER TO THE AMBASSADOR APRIL 19 FROM EDITOR OF THE SUNDAY OBSERVER REQUESTED INTERVIEW AND ASSISTANCE ON BEHALF OF PRINCE WANGCHUK NAMGYAL, SECOND SON OF CHOGYAL OF SIKKIM, WHO IS LIVING IN LONDON. REPLY ON BEHALF OF THE AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED SYMPATHY FOR HUMANITARIAN ASPECTS OF THE CASE, BUT POINTED OUT USG AND ITS REPRESENTATIVES CANNOT INVOLVE THEMSELVES WITH INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF A FRIENDLY STATE, IN THIS CASE INDIA. PRINCE WANGCHUK THEN CALLED AT EMBASSY MAY 2 FOR MEETING WITH FIRST SECRETARY WHO DEALS WITH NEA AFFAIRS.

2. WANGCHUK'S MAIN REQUEST IS THAT USG EXPRESS CONCERN FOR THE PERSONAL SAFETY OF THE CHOGYAL, THE CROWN PRINCE, AND THE ROYAL FAMILY TO THE INDIAN AUTHORITIES. WANGCHUK SAID HE HAD BEEN RECEIVING REPORTS RECENTLY OF MALTREATMENT AND PUBLIC HUMILIATION BEING INFLICTED UPON CHOGYAL'S SUPPORTERS IN SIKKIM BY DEMONSTRATORS WITHOUT INTERFERENCE BY INDIAN POLICE AND MILITARY.

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3. WANGCHUK SAID HE HAD APPROACHED INDIAN HIGH COMMISSION IN LONDON ON FATE OF HIS FATHER AND HAD BEEN REASSURED BY THE COMMISSION, WHICH CHECKED BACK WITH DELHI, ON SAFETY OF THE CHOGYAL AND HIS FAMILY. HOWEVER, THAT HAD BEEN A COUPLE OF WEEKS BACK AND THESE REPORTS OF MALTREATMENT CONTINUED TO ARRIVE.

4. WANGCHUK DISCUSSED THE SITUATION AND OTHER MEASURES HE HAD TAKEN AT SOME LENGTH. HE TOOK POSITION THAT INDIAN INTEGRATION OF SIKKIM IS NOT AN INTERNAL AFFAIR, BUT ONE OF INTERFERENCE WITH A SMALLER STATE. WANGCHUK SAID THE CHOGYAL FAVORED A REFERENDUM UNDER NEUTRAL AUSPICES, NOT THE INDIAN COMMISSIONERS AND NOTED CABLE HE HAD SENT TO SYG WALDHEIM TO THAT AFFECT AS WELL AS THE PUBLIC STATEMENT OF MARCH 5 BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE RIGHTS OF MAN.

5. WANGCHUK ASKED US IF WE COULD TELL WHETHER THE USG RECOGNIZES SIKKIM AS PART OF INDIA. HE NOTED THAT UNDER THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION CONSENT IS REQUIRED OF HALF THE INDIAN STATES AS WELL AS THE PARLIAMENT FOR INTEGRATION OF A NEW STATE. HE SPOKE OF THE RIGHTS TO AUTONOMY GIVEN SIKKIM UNDER ITS 1950 TREATY WITH INDIA AND NOTED THE CHOGYAL HAD BEEN PREVENTED FROM CONTESTING INDIAN MOVES IN INDIAN COURTS. THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE IN SIKKIM HAD DECLARED HIMSELF NOT TO BE BOUND BY DECISIONS OF THE COURTS IN SIKKIM ITSELF.

6. WANGCHUK EMPHASIZED SEVERAL TIMES DURING THE DISCUSSION THAT HIS FATHER IS A STUBBORN MAN AND WILL NOT REPEAT NOT LEAVE SIKKIM OF HIS OWN ACCORD. IF INDIANS WANT HIM TO GO, THEY WILL HAVE TO THROW HIM OUT. WANGCHUK HAS BEEN UNABLE TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE CHOGYAL DIRECTLY SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE AFFAIR.

7. WE ASSURED WANGCHUK THAT WE WOULD REPORT THE CONVERSATION FAITHFULLY TO THE DEPARTMENT AND HOPED TO HAVE SOME KIND OF REPLY FOR HIM EVENTUALLY. WE WARNED HIM NOT TO EXPECT TOO MUCH AND AGAIN EMPHASIZED DISTINCTION BETWEEN HUMANITARIAN AND MORE POLITICAL CONCERNS. IN CONFIDENTIAL

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PARTING, HE PUT TO US A SECONDARY REQUEST IF WE FOUND IT POSSIBLE TO ACCORD THE PRIMARY ONE. IN ADDITION TO ASKING THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT TO PROTECT THE PERSONAL SAFETY OF THE CHOGYAL AND HIS FAMILY, HE REQUESTED THE USG EXPRESS ITSELF IN FAVOR OF SOME SORT OF NEW REFERENDUM UNDER NEUTRAL AUSPICES IN SIKKIM.

8. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS LEFT BY PRINCE WANGCHUK AT THE

EMBASSY ARE BEING POUCHED TO THE DEPARTMENT (NEA/IND).
WE WOULD APPRECIATE THE DEPARTMENT'S REACTION.

RICHARDSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LONDON06783
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750157-0396
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750581/aaaacwja.tel
Line Count: 119
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 JUN 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <04 NOV 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REQUEST FOR US ASSISTANCE TO CHOGYAL OF SIKKIM
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SI, IN, UK, US, (NAMGYAL, WANGCHUK)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006